



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1625 North Market Boulevard, Suite N-323, Sacramento, CA  
95834

P (916) 574-8170 F (916) 574-8612 | [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)



### NEWS

### RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 18, 2008

Contact: Luis Farias (916) 826-6069 Cell  
Glenn Mason (916) 869-9124

## **BAR puts the Brakes on Illegal Street Racing**

*Vehicles are putting the public in danger and excessively polluting the air*

The word is out on the streets: take part in illegal street racing and you could lose your ride.

Two vehicles recently stopped by DragNet-trained peace officers during an illegal street race in Elk Grove, California were found to have stolen engines and transmissions and highly modified emission controls. They were subsequently ordered destroyed by the court. Crushing the cars not only removed potential safety threats from the roadways, but it also removed significant emissions from the air as well.

“Street racing kills, and it’s not just the racers who die. The unnecessary deaths associated with illegal street racing continue to climb,” says Department of Consumer Affairs Director Carrie Lopez. “Too many families and friends have lost loved ones as a result of this dangerous and illegal activity. “

The DragNet program is a partnership between the California Office of Traffic Safety, state and local law enforcement and BAR. The program has been very successful in identifying illegal vehicles that put the public in danger and excessively pollute the air.

## **BAR puts the Brakes on Illegal Street Racing**

2-2-2

The Bureau of Automotive Repair has provided technical assistance for enforcement activities against illegal street racing throughout the state for several years. Bureau of Automotive Repair field representatives have participated in POST-certified training to equip law enforcement officers with the technical expertise needed to determine whether modifications to street-racing vehicles violate California's laws against emission-system tampering.

Bureau of Automotive Repair documentation labs prepare demonstration vehicles used to train law enforcement officers. The vehicles are modified to demonstrate illegal alterations or removal of emission-control components typically found on street-racers.

If police suspect a car has been illegally modified, the owner must take the vehicle to a Referee Center to have it inspected. The car must pass the Smog Check, including a visual inspection for illegal modifications and the emission test.

Drivers cited for street racing spend an average of about \$2,500 to make their vehicles street-legal again. In many cases these illegal street-racing cars are gross-polluters. So street-racers are not just risking the lives of drivers, they're pumping unhealthy levels of pollution into the air that we all have to breathe.

Please help get the word out that if you race on the street, law enforcement will find you, and when they do, you face significant civil and criminal penalties all the way up to the loss of your car.

###